

WOL Radio MBS  
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Fulton Lewis, Jr.  
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REMARKS OF FULTON LEWIS

LEWIS: "Dr. Antonio de Verona, one of the C.I.A.'s handpicked leaders of the Cuban revolutionary council in exile has categorically denied a 'Saturday Evening Post' article by Stewart Alsop recently which was, in effect, a whitewash of President Kennedy's part in the collapse of the Cuban invasion. The Alsop article said that President Kennedy made the decision to go ahead with the invasion operation in the course of a White House meeting with Secretary of State Dean Rusk, C. I. A. Director Allen Dulles, Secretary of Defense McNamara, but he ruled that under no circumstances whatsoever would American forces of any kind become involved. He further ruled that the Cuban leaders in exile had to be warned in advance of this decision and that Adolf Berle, Special Assistant Secretary of State in Charge of Latin American Affairs, and White House palace guardsman Arthur Schlesinger Jr. be dispatched to New York to inform the Cuban leaders of the decision and the terms and that the Cuban leaders decided to go ahead with the invasion anyway.

"Dr. Verona, speaking for the revolutionary council as a whole, including Miro Cardona, wrote a letter which was published in Spanish-speaking newspapers in Miami, Florida, in which he says to Mr. Alsop-- it's an open letter to Mr. Alsop-- 'You incur error due surely to inaccurate information in stating that the Cuban revolutionary leaders approved the invasion plans in spite of the fact that we were informed by Messrs. Berle and Schlesinger that the United States would not offer us the necessary military aid. That statement is against the truth, for which reason I find myself forced to declare that at no time were we advised that the Cuban patriots would lack the promised naval and air protection, nor were we informed of the date and the place of landing. I leave to historians the delicate task of judging the facts and attributing the responsibilities.'

"The story that the members of the council have told previously to various newsmen, including myself, which has been, in fact, widely published in newspapers and magazines, was that the council members were unaware of what the C. I. A. was planning to do or the time or place involved, but more than that, that they themselves were held virtual prisoners during the time of the invasion operation. They were flown around the country under the custody of C. I. A. representatives, finally to find themselves in the lounge of a bachelor officers quarters of a Marine base at Ocala, Florida, on the day of the invasion, only to be visited there in the afternoon by an army colonel who had been sent from Washington to tell them the bad news of the disaster.